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Gary Miller

U.S. Representative, CA 31st (R)

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Congressional Scorecard 113-1: 0%

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

✓ Constitutional ✗ Unconstitutional − Did not Vote **Vote**

1. Short-term Debt Limit Increase: Would suspend the public debt limit through May 18, 2013 and, in effect, allow the Treasury Department to borrow as much as it needs in order to pay its bills over the next four months. ✗

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · H R 325 · 01/23/2013

2. Keystone XL Pipeline: Declares that "no Presidential permit shall be required for the pipeline described in the application filed on May 4, 2012, by TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P." −

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: None · H R 3 · 05/22/2013

3. Ukraine Aid: Provides $150 million for direct aid to Ukraine. −
Estimated Cost per household: **-$1.22/year.**

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: None · H R 4152 · 04/01/2014

4. Surveillance: Prevents defense funds from being used to allow U.S. intelligence agencies to sift through electronic metadata that contains the personal information of U.S. citizens. ✗

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **No** · H R 4870 · 06/19/2014

5. Militarizing Local Police: Prohibited any funding in the bill from being used to transfer excess military equipment for police. ✗

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **No** · H R 4870 · 06/19/2014

6. Omnibus Appropriations: Provides $1.013 trillion in discretionary appropriations in fiscal 2015 for federal departments and agencies. −
Estimated Cost per household: **-$8,220.00/year.**

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: None · H R 83 · 12/11/2014

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$297,522

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of September 3, 2026

Why do these votes matter?

1. Short-term Debt Limit Increase

Would suspend the public debt limit through May 18, 2013 and, in effect, allow the Treasury Department to borrow as much as it needs in order to pay its bills over the next four months: February, March, April, and May. Another provision in the bill would withhold pay for representatives or senators if either house fails to approve a budget by April 15. The pay would be withheld for each member of Congress until his or her house agrees to a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal 2014 or until the last day of the 113th Congress.

The federal government should live within its means and because most of the spending responsible for the ballooning national debt is unconstitutional.

2. Keystone XL Pipeline

This bill (H.R. 3) would declare that "no Presidential permit shall be required for the pipeline described in the application filed on May 4, 2012, by TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P.," which includes the Nebraska reroute that was evaluated and approved in early 2013. This bill would also deem that the Keystone project has already satisfied all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The federal government should allow entrepreneurs to develop energy resources, rather than deny access to the resources.

3. Ukraine Aid

Provides $150 million for direct aid to Ukraine. It would also provide for loan guarantees (meaning that U.S. taxpayers would be stuck holding the bag if the loans are not paid). And it would impose sanctions on Russian and ex-Ukrainian officials deemed responsible for the crisis in the Ukraine.

Foreign aid is unconstitutional. The rationale for providing U.S. aid to Ukraine is that the country needs our assistance to resist Russian hegemony and build "democracy." Yet the oligarchs wielding power in Ukraine are hardly "democrats," and (because money is fungible) U.S. assistance could effectively be funneled to Russia in the form of Ukrainian energy and debt payments.

4. Surveillance

During consideration of the Defense Appropriations bill, Representative Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) introduced an amendment to prevent defense funds from being used to allow U.S. intelligence agencies to sift through electronic metadata that contains the personal information of U.S. citizens or legal residents. Massie's amendment would also prohibit funds from being used by the NSA for "backdoor" surveillance - requiring or requesting the redesign of a product to facilitate the electronic surveillance of a person who uses it.

Massie's amendment seeks to uphold the Constitution and its protection of privacy rights. Any attempt to curtail the surveillance state and restore constitutional protections to Americans is good.

5. Militarizing Local Police

Representative Alan Grayson (D-Fla.) introduced an amendment that would have prohibited any funding in the bill from being used to transfer excess military equipment, such as aircraft (including drones), armored vehicles, grenade launchers, and bombs, to local police departments.

The proper role of local police is undermined by converting them into militarized units more suitable for occupying hostile territory than for protecting their local communities from the criminal element. Providing local police with "free" U.S. military equipment also greases the skids for more federal control, leading ultimately to nationalized police beholden to Washington as opposed to independent police departments beholden to local citizens acting through their elected officials.

6. Omnibus Appropriations

According to Congressional Quarterly, H.R. 83, dubbed the "CRomnibus bill" (combination of Continuing Resolution and Omnibus), "would provide $1.013 trillion in discretionary appropriations in fiscal 2015 for federal departments and agencies covered by the 12 unfinished fiscal 2015 spending bills.

This fiscal 2015 omnibus appropriations bill Congress is failing to address its fiscally and constitutionally irresponsible budgeting and appropriating process that is currently yielding annual federal deficits measured in the hundreds of billions of dollars that contribute directly to the dramatic growth of our already $18 trillion national debt.